ALUMINUM.

The following paragraphs, which possess a scientific interest, formed part of a late letter of our Paris Correspondent :

I have noticed in several numbers of the Intelligencer extracts from other papers referring to the recent discoveries in France touching the metal known as aluminum, and have thought, therefore, that the following letter from M. SAINTE CLAIRE DEVILLE, author of the late discoveries, would not prove uninteresting to your readers. The letter is addressed to the illustrious chemist, DUNAS, of Paris, and was communicated by him to the Academy of Sciences at one of the last sittings. Some of the netices which have left Paris upon this subject have spoken of aluminum as absolutely a new discovery. This is a mistake. The existence of the metal was discovered in 1827 by the chemist WOELHER, (or VOLHER;) and M. DEVILLE, it seems, is entitled to the credit of inventing a process by which it is obtained from the aluminous earths or clays in which it exists with more facility than by the processes known to the original discoverer or to any chemists up to the present time. Aluminum possesses many qualities which would make it of great value in commerce, arts, and industry, if it could be cheaply procured and in sufficient quantities; but hitherto, on account of the difficulty in obtaining it, its existence, as the metallic base of alumina, has been known only to scientific menan interesting fact added to the domain of science, but of no practical importance. M. DEVILLE professes to have invented a mode of obtaining it that will cause aluminum soon to enter with great advantage into common use, superseding for many purposes some of the most valuable of the known metals. Here is an extract from M. DEVILLE'S

"You have had the kindness to communicate to me a letter of M. Woelher, in which that illustrious chemist speaks to you of his experiments upon aluminum. Allow me upon this occasion to give you a few details intended to elucidate this question completely. The metal which I have obtained by means of sodium, but with an apparatus quite unlike all those hitherto used, appears to me to differ from the aluminum of M. Woelher essentially by the distinctness and decided character of its reactions. This difference is owing to impurities which it is impossible to remove when platinum vessels are used in th rations, even when the process followed is that which has quite recently been published by M. Woelher. I have repeated these experiments with the greatest care, and, like M. Woelher, I have obtained aluminum in the form of a grey metallic powder. Upon more attentive exthere may be remarked with the naked eye small metallic melted spheres, white like tin, and many of them having the diameter of a pin's head. Minute analysis has demonstrated to me the presence of sodium of platinum in that matter of which the fusion is determined by the heat of the very lively reaction during which it is produced, and which afterwards can only be obtained again by means of the blowpipe. This tempe rature is very elevated, especially when compared with that which I use to melt aluminum, and which is the in-termediary between the points of fusion of zinc and silver. The presence of the platinum will explain this considerable difference. The presence of sodium takes from the metal the greater part of its characteristic properties for aluminum, according to M. Woelher, decomposes water at 100 degrees, (212° Fabrenheit,) and is soluble in weak acids. Now, a thread of aluminum weighing 149 milligrammes, 8 (2.3069 grains troy) has been left for more than half an hour in contact with boiling water in a glass Its surface was not tarnished or bedimmed, the water lost none of its limpidity, and the aluminum thread or wire replaced in the balance was found to have undergone no change of weight. Some globules weighing only a few milligrammes remained for almost three months in weak sulphuric or nitric acid, and to all appearance underwent no alteration whatever. In boiling nitric acid the olution was effected so slowly that I was obliged, in operating my analysis, to abandon this mode of attacking Finally, if you let fall a globule of aluminum upon caustic soda heated red-hot and melted in a silver l, it still resists this powerful agent. The aluminum used in these experiments, and which has been analyzed, was perfectly pure. It is upon these properties, joined to the inalterability of the metal, that I base my hopes of having discovered a substance which may enter with advantage into common use.
"Finally, in the operations as hitherto conducted by

er, we have aluminum in the form of micros copic globules, or at most as large as the head of a pin, according as the reaction may chance to determine; whereas my process enables us to obtain lumps of the metal of a size limited only by the quantity of matter subjected to experiment. This has been tested in presence of several members of the Academy, and as yet has not failed in a single instance. I will add also that the suitably modifying the process of M. Woelher.

her's discoveries, and I am happy to have been able, by my investigations into a difficult subject that may have which are essential to been supposed exhausted, to establish with precision a tutional government." certain number of facts. In fact, there are other metals, more common than aluminum, and which are perhaps not so well known as is generally believed. I have been for a long time engaged in the preparation of a work upon the pure metals, produced and melted by processes which I will describe hereafter. In this work I hope to make known some unexpected results. Permit me to cite for instance nickel and cobalt, which possess the useful properties of malleability and ductility in a very remark-able degree, and also an extraordinary tenacity, far suappears that the weights which determine the rupture of these several wires are respectively as the numbers 60 for iron, 90 for nickel, and 115 for cobalt. This would establish for cobalt a degree of tenseity almost double that of iron. Moreover, nickel and cobalt are worked at the forge with the same facility as iron. They are perhaps the same purposes."

M. WOELHER himself, in the communication to M. Du-

mas alluded to by M. DEVILLE in the above letter, says: "I obtained in 1845 melted aluminum having nearly the color and brilliancy of tin, and perfectly malleable. obtained also a sheet flattened by the hammer, 10 millimetres (0.39370 inch) in leagth, and of a density equal to 2.67, slightly magnetic, not susceptible of decomposition in water at the ordinary temperature, but disengaging a little hydrogen at 100 degrees, (212° Fahrenheit. And he adds, in conclusion : "I am extremely curious to learn the ulterior results arrived at by M. Deville. It will be rendering a great service to science, and perhaps also to the useful arts, if this distinguished chemist frightful loss of life may be materially lessened in future should succeed in effecting the reduction of aluminum by years. an easier and more economical process.

A scientific correspondent of one of the journals of Paris thus describes aluminum :

"This metal is white as silver, unalterable, and extremely ductile; yet, while being wrought, a resistance is perceived which induces a belief that its tenacity is re considerable than that of silver. It may be hardened, and its softness restored by the process of anneal-Its point of fusion varies but slightly from that of less slowly than silver, and of which the combinations panied by are colorless like those of aluminum. Its density is 2.56. and cast in the open air without any perceptible oxidation. In a dry or moist atmosphere aluminum is unal-terable. It does not become tarnished by exposure, but remains brilliant beside zinc and tin, which, freshly cut, quickly lose their lustre. It is inadmissible to the action sulphuretted hydrogen; cold water does not affect it it does not become dim in boiling water: weak nitric and sulphuric acids when cold, and even concentrated nitric acid cold, have no action upon it. Its true dissolvent is chlorhydric acid. It disengages hydrogen and forms sesqui-chloride of aluminum. Heated to a red heat in a gaseous chlorhydric acid, it likewise forms dry and volatile sesqui-chloride of aluminum. It is easily conceived how a white metal, unalterable as silver, not tarnishing in the open air, usible, malleable, ductile, tenacious, and posing moreover the singular property of being less heavy than glass, is destined to render important services, if it can only be procured with facility. When it is rememcan only be procured with facility. When it is remem bered that this metal is abundant in nature, that its ore is clay, and that the chloride of aluminum is decomposed at a high temperature by the common metals with remarkable ease, there is good reason to hope that aluminum will ere long enter into common practical use."

The manner of obtaining aluminum is thus described

name became so well known a year or two ago as author of the experiment of the pendulum, demonstrating the diurnal rotation of the earth :

" So early as 1827 alumina, which enters largely int the composition of clay, loam, and marl, having been first transformed into a chloride, yielded into the hand of M. Woelher, under the energetic action of potassium, a me-tallic powder which was very naturally called aluminum. Since then we have rested content with the knowledge of the fact that aluminum exists. No particular desire was felt to procure a metal which, existing only in the form of powder, was not even susceptible of being subjected to the usual tests necessary to ascertain its physical properties For a satisfactory knowledge of this metal we have had to wait till a yet youthful chemist, M. Deville, should discover it, so to speak, a second time, and should demonstrate to us, as he has just done, that clay is in fact an ore from which we may extract, whenever we please so to do, a white, ductile metal, fusible at a red heat, quite tenacious, and endowed with a lightness that cannot fail to designate it as useful for a great variety of purposes. To obtain aluminum in the form of small metallic grains, M Deville has only had slightly to modify the process pur-sued by M. Woelher. It place of potassium he employs sodium; and he causes the chloride of aluminum to act in excess and in vapor, at a temperature sufficiently high to provoke a vivid incandescence. Then the aluminum is reduced and forms itself into globules. Afterwards, in order to obtain the pure metal, he heats to a lively recheat the mass of chloride of sodium in which it is en gaged; the excess of volatile chloride becomes disengaged and at last there remains a saline lump, which, being so luble in water, delivers to the chemist the object of his

Some interesting telegraphic experiments are about t be performed between Paris and London. The English astronomer, Mr. Airy, announces that a wire has been placed effecting a connexion of the Observatory at Green which with the submarine cable passing from Dover to Calais; and that so far as he is concerned he is ready to commence the experiments of which the object is to fix definitively the difference of longitude between Greenwich and Paris. Here the necessary arrangements are almost letters, as read by M. Dunas before the Academy of complete. For some time past the communication has been established between the Paris Observatory and the Ministry of the Interior, from which all the French electric telegraphic lines radiate; and nothing remains to be done in order to proceed with the experiments but the taking of some administrative measures in order to com plete the connexion by telegraphic wire of the two prin cipal Observatories of England and France. The Bureau of Longitudes of Paris has nominated a commission charged to superintend the necessary arrangements.

SUBMITTING LAWS FOR POPULAR DECISION.

The Marshall (Michigan) "Expounder" publishes th following letter from Hon. Ross WILKINS, Judge of the United States District Court, to Judge PLATT, of the Supreme Court of that State:

DETROIT, MARCH 25, 1854. I have received and carefully read and considered your rery lucid opinion on the validity of the act of February 12, 1853, entitled "An act to prohibit the manufacture of intoxicating beverages and the traffic therein," recently submitted to our Supreme Court.

On the main question involved, of reference to the electors of the State, your argument to my mind is conclusive, and I have no hesitation in saying that, from my xamination of the act, I concur with you in all of th other legal propositions which you have enumerated.

When the Legislature, in express terms, submit a gen eral act to the people, before it can "become a law," it seems to me (with all respect to our judicial brethren en-

tertaining a different opinion) that the legislative power is thereby delegated to the people, and their representatives divested of the same.

To countenance such legislation (now I think for the first time introduced in our State) would encourage simi-lar representative infidelity hereafter, and there is no say-

ing where the evil would stop. As a judge you have kept our garments undefiled. There are many other objections, but I assure you that I know that the advocates of temperance are not respon-sible for all the features of the bill. While the act was in progress the enemies of the measure surreptitiously sought to destroy it by this reference to the people and otherwise, in which the timid joined, anxious from the responsibility and save themselves with their

onstituencies. Hence has arisen all the difficulty.

I am friendly to the reform, and, so far as consiste our fundamental law, I would advocate the absolute and entire suppression of the liquor traffic; but I can never countenance any infringement on the constitution even to effect so great a blessing to this and succeeding generations.

The Harrisburg "Union" reminds its readers that the pinion of Judge Wilkins is but a reiteration of a decision of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, delivered by Justice Bell, on an appeal from Alfegheny county, in the case of the Commonwealth vs. Parker et al. It says:

"The point decided was precisely the same as that of means of a new | the Michigan question, namely, that to delegate legisla method which dispenses with all alcaline reducers, differs in no particular from that which I obtained in a pure shall be law at the ballot-box, was a palpable violation of the constitution, relating to the powers of the Legisla-I have the honor of submitting to you a specimen. It is a sheet not yet hardened by the action of the rollers.

"No one, I trust, will misconstruct the metives by which branch of government; and, therefore, any attempt to I am actuated in this discussion. My experiments cannot but give increased value to one of the finest of M. Woel-cording to the prescribed terms of the constitution, would be usurpation, dangerous to those checks and balances which are essential to the harmonious workings of consti-

> COTTON IS KING.—Charles Dickens, in a late number of his "Household Words," after enume rating the striking facts of cotton, says:

" Let any social or physical convulsion visit the United States, and England would feel the shock from Land's End to John O'Groat's. The lives of nearly two millions of our countrymen are dependant upon the cotton crops of America; their destiny may be said, without any sort perior to that of iron, which has hitherto been supposed to possess this quality more perfectly than any of the metals. From M. Vertheim's experiments on wires of chant ships would rot idly in dock, ten thousand mills equal diameter, made of iron, of nickel, and of cobalt, it must stop their busy looms, and two million mouths would starve for lack of food to feed them."

SHIPWRECKS ON THE BRITISH COAST.

The following extract from the official report of a com mittee gives a fearful picture of the loss of life and prosubject to oxidation than iron, and may be used for perty in the British waters during the two last years: "The committee lament to state that the destruction of human life from shipwreck has been very large on the coasts of the United Kingdom during the past year. It is, however, a source of satisfaction to the find that public attention, as also that of her Majesty's Government, has been directed to this important subject and to the consideration of means for preventing shipwrecks, and for saving life on occasions of disasters at sea. They believe that, by the introduction of improved descriptions of life-boats, and their general adoption on the coasts, an increased number of life-boat, rocket, and mortar stations on the land, and more especially by the at Madrid, says:

870 lives, occurred on the coasts and within the seas of the United Kingdom in the year 1853. In the awful gale of silver. In fact we hardly know any metal which melts last January 257 wrecks occurred on our coasts, accom- that if the negro population of Caba were rendered free that panied by the fearful sacrifice of 486 lives. Who can fact would create a most powerful element of resistance to any contemplate the vast amount of misery which such a loss scheme for annexing Cuba to the United States, where slave-It is an exactlent conductor of heat, and may be melted of life must necessarily entail without asking himself the ry still exists. question, 'Can I not, directly or indirectly, assist in lessening or mitigating such calamities, by contributing towards providing means for saving life from wrecks ?' The aid solicited is comparatively small, and the recompense,

if but one life be saved, is incalculably great.' FIRE AND DREADFUL ACCIDENT .- We learn from the Providence Journal that the cottage-house at the corner of Myrtle and Broad streets, owned by Gardner T. Swartz, and occupied by his son, George Swartz, was destroyed by fire Wednesday morning. The building was set on fire by a little son of Mr. Swartz, two and a half years old, who had been left a one in an upper room, and had child, was so severely burnt that she is not expected to recover, and the child was also badly injured.

THREE BOYS DROWNED .- Three boys, members of Mr Marshall Wilkins's family, Hamptonburgh, Orange county, (N. Y.) were drowned in the Wallkill creek on Satur-They were respectively aged fourteen, sixteen, and nineteen years. The oldest and youngest were crossing the stream near their home, and the wagon was upset by the current. The lad of sixteen, hearing their The manner of obtaining aluminum is thus described cries, went to their assistance, plunged in, was grasped by M. Foucault, the distinguished young savant whose by the younger brother, and both went down together.

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

MONDAY, MAY 1, 1854.

IN SENATE.

The PRESIDENT of the Senate laid before the body ommunication from the Postmaster General, transmi ting information in relation to the annulment of a con ract with J. W. Kelly; which was referred to the Com nittee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

Also, an act of the Legislature of Rhode Island to reverse and annul the judgment of the Supreme Court of that State for treason, rendered against Thomas W. Dorr June 25th, 1844; which was read and ordered to lie on

MEMORIALS AND PETITIONS.

The following memorials and petitions were presented nd referred to appropriate committees:
By Mr. ATCHISON: Fromclerks employed in the Uni States Armory at Harper's Ferry, asking an increa

compensation By Mr. TOUCEY: Two menorials from citizens of West uffield, Connecticut, asking a increase of duty on cigars. Also, from citizens of the same State in favor of cheap

By Mr. HAMLIN: From citzens of Aroostook county. faine, asking the establishment of certain mail routes. By Mr. MORTON: A document in favor of the estabshment of a mail route by stamboats between Chatta oochee and Columbus.

By Mr. COOPER: From Geq W. Harris, asking Congress to vest in him the copyright to the 13th, 14th, and 15th volumes of the Pennsylvani, State Reports.

By Mr. CHASE: From certain sitizens of Morrow county, Ohio, asking Congress to immediately repeal all laws ever passed on the subject of slavery or fugitive slaves in the States, Territories, or Districtof Columbia, especially the Missouri compromise, and lewe the whole subject to the people in the respective State or Territories.

By Mr. THOMSON, of New Jesey: From citizens

Burlington, New Jersey, in favorof cheap ocean postage Also, from Horatio Gates Cook, asking to be allowed the half-pay to which his father was entitled for Revolu tionary services. o, from John Garvin, asking indemnity for taking

care of and supporting Thomas Garvin, who became an invalid in consequence of exposure during the late war with Great Britain. Several petitions were also presented in favor of secur ing the right of religious tolerance to American citizens broad, and against the repeal of the Missouri compro

MEMBERS EXCUSED FROM SERVING:

Mr. HAMLIN asked to be excused from serving on the Committee en Printing. It was a committee that required almost daily attention, and, besides, he was on the other working committees, which required much labor. He would necessarily have to be absent from the Senate for a brief period, and therefore hoped he might be ex-

The Senate having excused Mr. HAMLIS, the Chair appointed Mr. Johnson to fill the vacancy.

Mr. SMITH asked to be excused from serving on the Committee on Printing and on the Committee on Post ffices and Post Roads for the remainder of the period that he should continue in the body.

Which having been agreed to, the Chair appointed Mr.

Fessenden to the Committee on Printing, and Mr. Seward to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads. PROPOSED SUSPENSION OF THE NEUTRALITY LAWS

Mr. SLIDELL submitted the following resolution: Resolved, That the Committee on Foreign Relations b structed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing the President of the United States during any future recess of Congress to suspend by proclamation, either wholly or par-tially, the operation of the act in addition to an act for the punshment of certain crimes against the United States, appr 20th of April, 1818, and also of the act supplementary there to, approved 10th of March, 1838, should in his epinion the public interests require such total or partial suspension; such suspension not to exceed the period of twelve months, and the causes which shall have induced the President to pro-claim it to be communicated to Congress immediately on its first meeting thereafter.

Mr. SLIDELL said: Although the resolution which has just been read is, on its face, simply one of inquiry, I think it proper to state, at this time, the motives that have induced me to present it. I consider it one of great importance. It is not brought forward as a mere for-mality, but as the basis of substantive, direct, and, as I hope, prompt legislative action. I am quite conscious of the gravity of the responsibility assumed by a Senator taking the initiative in such a matter; but, with the firm conviction I entertain of its necessity, I should feel that I was recreant to my duty to the nation, and especially to the State that sent me here, were I to shrink from it. The duty, moreover, is distinctly imposed upon me by the action of the Legislature of Louisiana. On the 16th

of March last joint resolutions on the subject of Cuba were unanimously adopted. I have since been in the daily expectation of receiving official notice of them; but, from neglect to forward a copy or from some irregularity of the mail, they have not yet reached the delegation in an authentic form. I have a copy which I believe to be correct, but do not feel at liberty to present it formally, as I am advised that it would not be in conformity with the usage of the Senate to do so.

Mr. President, I was as skeptica as any one on this floor could be about the existence of any concerted plan to Africanize Cuba. I use the word, any concerted plan to Africanize Cuba. I use the word not for the reason that it has become fashionable, but be cause it plainly conveys, to my mind at least, without periphrasis, the complex ideas of emancipation, confisca-tion, pillage, marder, devastation, and barbarism. Past experience has led me to be surprised at nothing that England might attempt to prevent the possession of this magnificent island by her great commercial rival, a rival destined to be, in a very few years, if in fact she be not already, in that respect, her recognised superior. Still I could not bring myself to believe that Spain, with all her pride and obstinacy, would prefer the destruction of a flourishing colony, peopled by her own sons, to the pros-pect of its transfer, at some future, perhaps distant day, honorable and peaceful negotiation, to a friendly nan, for a price that would extricate her finances from that gulf of seemingly hopeless bankruptcy in which they have been so long plunged. If the Senate will indulgi me I will state now, as briefly as possible, the reason that have led me to the full conviction of a well-understood purpose between Spain and England, in which France is certainly a confident, and probably a partici-

pant, for the Africanization of Cuba. On the 8th of April, 1852, Lord Malmesbury, British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, directed his Minister at Washington, in concert with the French Minister, propose to our Government "a tripartite convention y which the three nations should bind themselves, seve rally and collectively, to renounce, both now and hereafter, all intention to obtain possession of the island of Juba, and to discountenance all attempts to that effect of the part of others." This proposition was made to Mr. Webster, then Secretary of State, but no definite reply was made to it while he remained in office. His succes sor, however, Mr. Everett, under date of 1st December 1852, declined the overture in a paper which will be for-ever remarkable in our diplomatic history for its hightoned nationality and a vigor of style corresponding with the importance of the question. Let us now trace the origin of this joint proposition of England and France on the 20th October, 1851. Lord Palmerston, then British Foreign Secretary, writing to Lord Howden, his Minister

at Madrid, says:

"With reference to the passage in M. Miraflores' note, in selves, to diminish the danger on those occasions, this frightful loss of life may be materially lessened in future years.

"The committee had occasion to observe in their last report that the year 1852 had been the most disastrous as respected shipwreeks on record; the large number of 1,100 wrecks, with the loss of upward of 900 lives, having taken place during that period on the coasts of the British isles. And they regret to have to state that, as far as a could be ascertained from Lloyd's List and other authentic sources, nearly 800 wrecks, with the loss of about \$670 lives, occurred on the coasts and within the seas of the \$670 lives, occurred on the coasts and within the seas of the \$670 lives, occurred on the coasts and within the seas of the \$670 lives, occurred on the coasts and within the seas of the proposed to the passage in M. Miraflores' note, in which he states that the Spanish Government can seriously recommend a measure which would prove very injurious to the native of Cuba, when they also recommend that the Spanish Government should conciliate the affections of those Cubans, I have to instruct your lordship to observe to M. Miraflores' note, in which he states that the Spanish Government can seriously recommend a measure which would prove very injurious to the native of Cuba, when they also recommend a measure which would prove very injurious to the nature of Cuba, when they also recommend a measure which would prove very injurious to the nature of Cuba, when they also recommend a measure which would prove very injurious to the nature of Cuba, when they also recommend a measure which would prove very injurious to the nature of Cuba, when they also recommend a measure which would prove very injurious to the nature when he was necessation has necessate that the Spanish Government can seriously recommend a measure which would prove very injurious to the nature of Cuba, when they also recommend a measure which would prove people of Cubs, with a view to secure the connexion between that island and the Spanish Crown; and it must be eviden

"With regard to the bearing which negro emancipation would have on the interests of the white proprietors, it may safely be affirmed that free labor costs less than slave labor and it is indisputable that a free and contented peasantry are safer neighbors for the wealthy classes above them than illreated and resentful slaves."

On the 9th of January, 1852, Lord Howden thus writes from Madrid to Earl Granville, who had come into the the Foreign Office on the resignation of Lord

"By the anxious desire of the Spanish Government, I take by fire Wednesday morning. The building was set on fire by a little son of Mr. Swartz, two and a half years old, who had been left a one in an upper room, and had obtained some matches. The mother, in rescuing the part of France and the United States, and of England of Prance and the United States, and of England of urse, might be made with regard to Cuba

This invitation of interference from Spain was evidently brought about by the communication of 20th October, and others of a similar character. On the 24th April, 1852 Lord Malmesbury communicates to Mr. Isturitz, Spanish Ambassador at London, copies of the project of a conven-tion to be proposed to the United States by the British and French Ministers at Washington, and the Marquis de Miraflores, on the 30th April, 1852, thanks Lord Howden n the warmest terms for his agency in having brought about this convention, or rather proposition for a convention. Mr. Isturitz, in a memorandum which has no date

out, from the order in which it appears in the Parliamentary document from which I quote, must have been ad-dressed to Lord Malmesbury between the 8th and 30th July, 1852, says:

July, 1852, says:

"Her Catholic Majesty desires that, should the Government of the United States not adhere to the declaration respecting the island of Cuba entrusted to the British and French representatives at Washington, England and France would declare on their side that they nover will allow any other Power, whether European or American, at any time to possess itself of the island of Cuba, either by cession, alienation, conquest, or insurrection of the same. Any such declaration made by the two Powers collectively would answer the intention put forward on a former occasion by the United States never to allow a European Power to possess itself of Cuba. It would, moreover, be in consonance with the idea which, according to information received by her Catholic Majesty's Government, at present prevails with the French and British representatives to whose care the negotiations now pending at Washington have been entrusted."

On the 12th July. 1852. Marquis de Miraflores, in writ-

On the 12th July, 1852, Marquis de Miraflores, in writ ing to Mr. Calderon de la Barca, states very openly what Mr. Crampton, in writing to Lord Malmesbury on the same day, had only indirectly alluded to, "the inexpediency of urging too strongly the pending questions whilst the result of the Presidential election remains as yet undecided." Mr. Crampton says:

"Two months, however, having clapsed without our having received any further communication from Mr. Webster
on this subject, and certain circumstances regarding the internal political state of the country, (these must of course
have been the Presidential nominations,) which M. Sartiges
and myself had reason to believe were the cause of the delonger existing, we thought the time had come when t would be well to bring the matter again under the consideration of the United States Government."

This was done on the 8th July, when the Presidentia nominations had been made. But the illness and lament-ed death of Mr. Webster prevented his replying. I have already offered my feeble tribute of praise to the able, thoroughly American, and, if he will allow me to pay him what to some of his admirers may seem an equivocal compliment, Democratic reply of his successor. By the way, if the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts, whom I regret not to see in his seat, has no special reawhom I regret not to see in his seat, has no special reason to the contrary, he would greatly gratify my curiosity, and, I doubt not, that of many others, if he would explain the great discrepancy between his letter, as Secretary of State, dated December 1, 1852, and President Fillmore's message communicated to Congress valy five days after; for the objections urged in the letter against the acquisition of Cuba will apply with equal force in all future time, or at least until the races that now compose its nonpulsion shall be averaginated. The African and its population shall be exterminated. The African and Spaniard must alike disappear before Mr. Fillmore could consider its acquisition desirable. If England be allowed to have her way in the matter, this problem will soon be more than half solved. The Spanish race will have beased to exist, and the African, if left to its own resources, with the enormous disproportion of males to fe nales now, according to the last census, existing in the island, will rapidly melt away. The overtures of France and England having been thus definitely rejected, Lord John Russell, in his despatch to Mr. Crampton of February 16, 1853, which was by him communicated to our Government, closed with this very significant remark:

"Finally, while fully admitting the right of the United States to reject the proposal made by Lord Malmesbury and M. de Turgot, Great Britain must at once resume her entire liberty, and upon any occasion that may call for it be free to act either singly or in conjunction with other Powers as to her may seem fit."

This implied menace seems, by the declaration of Lord Clarendon on the first night of the present session of Parliament, in the House of Peers, to have been carried out, at least so far as mutual promises between France and England go. Recollect that it is the Secretary for Foreign Affairs who speaks:

"I will further add that the union between the two Gov "I will further add that the union between the two Governments has not been confined to the Eastern question. The happy accord and good understanding between France and England have been extended beyond Eastern policy to the policy affecting all parts of the world, and I am heartily rejoiced to say that there is no portion of the two hemispheres with regard to which the policy of the two countries, however heretofore antagonistic, is not now in entire harmony. [Cheers.] Thus, then, my lords, at least one great good will have been secured by these transact ons, that two great and hitherto rival nations have learnt to know and to appreciate itherto rival nations have learnt to know and to appreciate each other better, to reject the fallacy that they are each other's natural enemy, and to be ready to act heartily together in any just and righteous cause." [Cheers.]

Now, there is another matter which to many, indeed to nost Americans, will appear too trivial for notice here, but which to me seems of very grave import. In the recent duel at Madrid between our Minister and the French Ambassador, M. de Turgot, Lord Howden, the representative of a Government where duelling is uly a felony at law, but where, what is much more imortant, public opinion permits the penalties of the law o be enforced, acted as the second of the French Ministo be enforced, acted as the second of the French Minister; and, although this happened some three or four months since, he has not been recalled, nor have we heard that he has been ever reprimanded for his conduct.

That I may not be misunderstood, I would here disclaim any idea of censuring the course of the principals in the duel. Each of them no doubt thought that it could be a supported to the principals in the duel. not be avoided without the risk of compromitting his honor. But on the part of Lord Howden there could be no or. But on the part of how the tract of the possible obligation to go out with M. de Turgot; and he certainly would not have done so had he not felt assured e of the approbation of his Government. I have taken some pains to inquire, and learn that there can be arallel case. While on the subject of Lord Howden, I cannot refrain from saying that his very emphatic denial, addressed to an old and valued friend of mine, Mr. F. P. Corbin, of Virginia, of any interference, past or present, actual or intended, with the emancipa tion of the slaves in Cuba, would have commanded from me more implicit credence if he had alluded to the letter of Lord Palmerston of the 20th of October, 1851, and said that he had abstained from acting on it. His reticence respecting so important a fact, having a direct con-nexion with the subject on which he was writing to Mr. Corbin, cannot, without excessive charity, be ascribed to

inadvertence or forgetfulness. To satisfy the Senate that this doubt of the fairness of Lord Howden's denegation is not unwarranted by the facts I will read that portion of his letter, dated Paris, 14th November last, in which, after denying in the most positive terms every assertion that England wished to Africanize Cuba, he proceeds to specify "what had been during the last three years his negotiations with the Spanish Government respecting Cuba, that it might be seen that there was not the slightest foundation for the runors that had been circulated in the United States:"

"Firstly, I have been making unceasing representations of the number of slaves annually imported into the island, nd complaints of the almost open manner in which the traffor was carried on under the very noses of the Captains-General, always excepting the excellent General Concha. Secral, always excepting the excellent deneral contents of condly, I have been making fruitless attempts to get the Spanish Government to declare the abominable traffic in men piracy—that is to say, to follow the example of the United States in this particular. Thirdly, I passed my time in anxious solicitations to obtain the ultimate and complete freedom of those negroes called 'Emancipados,' which have been fraudulently detained in bondage since the year 1817, in dispensed of the state of the st readulentry detained in bondage since the year lost, in dis-regard of treaties. I rejoice to say that the Spanish Govern-ment has listened to the dictates of justice and humanity, and has granted me this boon. Fourthly, I have been endeavor-ing to procure an abrogation of that intolerant and immoral law by which foreigners wishing to settle in Cuba are obliged to change their religion, on the somewhat startling principle (not understood elsewhere) that becoming bad men is a satis-

(not understood elsewhere) that becoming bad men is a satis-factory preliminary to becoming good subjects.

"To these official negotiations I have added, at various times, friendly and officious exhortations to improve the in-ternal system of the island, by facilitating the administration of justice, and by liberalizing the nominations to office and of justice, and by liberalizing the nominations to omee and employment among the natives of the island. You will see what I really have done, or rather attempted to do, is very different from what I am said to have done in your papers. When the true state of the case is known, and ignorance or malevolence dispelled, I even reckon upon the the good wishes of your countrymen in the success of the measures I ask, so consonant with your own laws and institutions. In all that I have here told you, with entire candor, the United States can only see the natural working of England's declared and unchang ng policy in a cause which is dear to her; and Spain herself must feel that, in days like these, unless she executes her engagements and modifies her intolerance, she can never hope to enter again, and as she ought to do, into the hierarchy of natious."

Let us compare these bold, unqualified assertions, that all his negotiations with the Spanish Government respect-ing Cuba have been fully stated by him, with the record which I hold in my hand, and see how completely they are falsified. His letter to Lord Granville of the 9th o January, 1852, I have already reviewed, and have allude to that of the Marquis of Miraflores of the 30th of April and from which I will now read extracts, and it will be seen that I have qualified Lord Howden's volunteer decla ration to Mr. Corbin by the mildest possible term, as a reticence, "the suppresio veri:"

"It is highly gratifying for me to be able to offer, in reply to your lo dship's note, (conveying a copy of the proposed tripartite convention,) a new testimony of the lively satisfaction which the Government of her Majesty feels in reflecting upon the manner, essentially beneficial for the common interests of Spain and England, with which your lordship fills the high mission confided to you by your august Sovereign at this Court. I beg your lordship to accept the sincere and expressive thanks which I give you, in the name of the Government of her Majesty, for the efficacious manner in which you have contributed to the happy issue of the negotiation which forms the subject of the present communication."

Might I not, with perfect propriety, have gone further and charged the British Minister at Madrid with the as sertion of a falsehood? But it is quite as evident that he is an equally unreliable witness in a much more impor tant matter. His agency in the proposed tripartite convention might have been safely avowed; not so in relation to the suggestion of Lord Palmerston of the eman pation of the slaves. Lord Howden still represents Quee

M. Miraflores what he was instructed to say, and the most favorable construction we can place upon the dis-crepancy is, that, the archives of his legation not being at hand to refresh his memory, the fifth and sixth most

Governments respecting Cuba, found it convenient to profit by the opportunity presented by Mr. Cerbin to effect his object. His letter, on so grave a subject, to a citizen of the United States, eminently respectable, but to his liberty a tariff has been placed on his labor according to compying no public position, is altogether anomalous, and contrasts strongly with the habitual reserve of English diplomates. It was widely circulated in Europe and the United States, and could not have failed to attract the notice of Lord Clarendon, and yet we have no intimation in entry of the Lordon journals of its not being appropriate to his carried the master. By heing retion in any of the Loudon journals of its not being approved by him. Silence in such a case presumes not only seent, but approbation, and commentary upon so gross a perversion of the truth in so high a quarter would be superfluous. To say the least of it, it presents no very avorable specimen of the fair dealing of the English abinet.

There is one thing in Lord Palmerston's letter which annot fail to strike even the most casual reader; it is amaica and every other West Indian colony where the proprietors, a free and contented peasantry being safer neighbors for the wealthy classes than ill-treated

Let us now see how far the idea of a concerted plan for the emancipation of the slaves in Cuba is borne out by the action of the authorities of the island. It is a matter of notoriety that the Spanish officials there have repeatedly and openly declared that, in the event of the insurrection of the Creole population, they would not only which Lord Clarendon says that the policy of France and emancipate the slaves, but arm them against their masters; but, until very lately, nothing had been done totice harmony. He cannot allude to any other subject wards the reiteration of this threat, and utterance had than Cuba. For several years the two countries acted in not been given to it in any official form. The Creoles of concert in their difficulties with the Argentine Confederate white race are the great slave proprietors, and, whatever may be said to the contrary, are with entire unanimity opposed to the Spanish domination, and desire, united States, where any occasion for concerted action either by revolution and subsequent annexation or by has existed or can exist; and as on the surface at least either by revolution and subsequent annexation or by purchase, to enter into our Confederacy.

On this point I speak not from more conjecture or re-

port, but from personal observation and the most reliable sources of information; and the fact will hardly be questioned when I cite as a witness the late Captain General Cañedo, who in a circular addressed, on the 29th October, 1853, to the subordinate officers in the island, said:

"Convinced as is the Supreme Government that it can only count upon the efficacious adhesion of the Spaniards of the Peninsula (Spain) and of the traders; and persuaded also that the Creoles are all its enemies, or at least that they are indifferent to the triumph of the holy cause of her Majesty; and that, in the course of time, their fortunes will be contributed to serve the purposes of the revolutionary traitors, you

The threat of a servile war is sufficiently clear in the proclamation of the same Captain General on resigning the command of the island to his successor, Gen. Pezuela, on the 3d December last. He then says:

"Remain obedient to the Supreme Government and to the officers it sends you, and never for a moment forget that the very existence and the name of Cuba depend upon its continuity to be Sensite. ng to be a Spanish possession. Mr. Barringer, our late Minister to Spain, in his des-

atch of the 14th of December, 1852, confirms this view of the subject: "It is said that as a last resort to prevent its (Cuba) falling into the power of the United States, or becoming a free inde-pendent State by revolution, secret orders have been issued to emancipate the slaves and place arms in their hands for the maintenance of their own rule and authority in the island; and that is the true reason of the recent increase of the slave trade in that island, in violation of public treaties. It is re-

peated as a motto in the public press of Spain that Cuba must always be either 'Spanish or African.' What the future may bring forth it is impossible to see; but this certainly is the prevalent feeling and determination in Spain in reference to the aspect of affairs and the final destiny of the island o General Pezuela was known in Spain to entertain no tions favorable to the emancipation of the slaves. He lost no time in proclaiming them in Cuba. He entered upon his office on the 4th of December, and on the 8th

"rules for the consorship of newspapers" declare:

ernor, within the day of the publication of the newspaper subject to his revision, of the publication of any article which has been inserted without his approval or with alterations.

"Art. 14. All articles which treat of political or administrative matters shall be submitted to the censor without corections or interlineations. The censor shall make such modifications as he may esteem opportune, noting them at the foot, and shall sign every leaf of the paper when he returns it to the editor."

Under these regulations, which are stringently en forced, the opinions and arguments enounced in the news papers of Havana are all approved by the Government before publication. The "Diario" of the 28th December has an article on the necessity of a new organization of labor, recommending the importation of apprentices. It is much too verbose for quotation, and is written in a very ambitious and oracular style, but it contains one paragraph which cannot be misinterpreted:

"It being understood that what we have in view is to make a transition from labor, that it is entirely compulsory to the organization of labor under the system of complete freedom which prevails in other countries, it is necessary, prudent, and just that we shall conciliate as far as possible the exigencies of both extremes. The contract system, which establishes for a fixed period a reciprocal servitude and a reciprocal master-ship, is the only possible solution of so delicate a problem."

authorizing, for two years, the unlimited importation of apprenticed laborers from Spain, India, Yucatan, and the ese Empire. It contains sixty-seven articles, prethis new slave trade may be formed from the second clause of the fifth article, which declares that not more than four persons per ton, including the crew, shall be shipped on any vessel. Our limit for passengers was two to every five tons, and when the present regulation requiring fourteen square feet of deck for each passenger was substituted, it was supposed to be a fair equivalent for the old allowance. If I err my friend from New given to the Captain General to retrace his steps. York, who has lately investigated the subject of European emigration, will correct me. We all know that there is a vast deal of suffering and great mortality on board of our precipitate than to retard the acquisition of Texas, and emigrant ships, whose voyages are altogether made in the temperate zone. What, then, will be the horrid fate of these Cuban apprentices transported within the tropics on vessels allowed by law to convert the times the preparation of the people of Cuba; but if they be driven to on vessels allowed by law to convert the times the preparation that they are desired by their initial convertible. temperate zone. What, then, will be the normal tropics these Cuban apprentices transported within the tropics on vessels allowed by law to carry ten times the proportion vessels allowed by law to carry ten times the proportion that they are doomed by their jailers to the horrors of a servile war, then, I say, hands off;

space four thousand apprentices. This would seem hardly credible, yet here is the decree at full, and any one who hooses to examine it may find many other provisions exemplifying almost as strongly the paternal care which is to be extended to these favored objects of English phi-lanthropy. Take, for instance, article fifty-seven:

"The master will only be able to apply the following pun-shments: The stocks, prison, and chains from one to thirty lays, with or without privation of salary." But subsequent articles expressly recognise the right

of the master to inflict other punishment whenever, in

his opinion, the emergency requires summary action.

I have visited several plantations in Cuba where a po tion of the laborers were Chinese, and I know that they were subjected to precisely the same labor and the same discipline as the negro slaves. Cannot some of our Northern Abelitionists spare a portion of their sympathy for these yellow-skinned sufferers, or is ebony the only shade of complexion that can elicit it? Why are not the horrid details of the sufferings of five or six hundred Chinese inveigled by English merchants on board of English ships, under the pretext of conveying them to California, and then sold to bondage in the Chincha Islands, made the

January the Captain-General addressed to the several administrative bureaus, and to a few private individuals high in its confidence, the following circular:

"Gobierno y Capitania General: Being desirous of reporting to her Majesty accurately in regard to the labor applica-

Victoria at Madrid, and yet, if he speaks the truth in his letter to Mr. Corbin, he had, since the 20th of October. 1851, failed to present the arguments in favor of emancipation which he was expressly instructed to urge upon the Spanish Government. The habitual discipline of English diplomatists, their strict and prompt obedience to the instructions of their official thiefs, are well known, and Lord Palmerston, a thorough nartinet in the administration of the foreign office, was the last man to tolerate any thing like contumacy or neglect of his orders. We are bound, then, to believe that Lord Howden did say to M. Miraflores what he was instructed to say, and the "God preserve you many years!" God preserve you many years! ble in this island to agriculture, I request that you lay before me your opinion upon this subject, taking into view and studying the situation of the slave race relative to our internal and extremal relations; and the manner in which laborers can be increased in sufficient numbers to cover those requirements of agriculture which are not reached by the newly instituted system of colonisation, the propriety of resorting or or not (with due respect to our treaties with other nations regarding the slave trade) to the introduction of African apprentices; and, finally, the form and manner in which this system can be best established, and whatever else may occur to you upon this subject of so great importance.

"God preserve you many years!

"EL MARQUES DE LA PEZUELA."

at hand to refresh his memory, the fifth and sixth most important subjects of his negotiations had escaped his recollection.

Another and more natural, if less charitable, solution may be found in the supposition that Lord Howden, knowing that his cabinet was desirous, from the threatening aspect of the Russian question, to remove suspicions of the existence of a convention between the three Governments respecting Cuba, found it convenient to profit by the opportunity presented by Mr. Cyrbin to effect his object. His letter, on so grave a subject, to a citizen of the United States, eminently respectable, but price of a healthy slave, so that the master, by being reduced from a monthly compensation of eighteen dollars to eight dollars, is deprived, by a stroke of the pen, of more

than half his revenue.

Meanwhile the slave trade is going on with increased vigor. The vigilance of English cruisers has been so much relaxed for some months as to justify the belief that the British Government is conniving at the introduction of slaves into Cuba. As we know that there is no disposithe recklessness of the assertion, with the experience of tion to promote the development of the agricultural re-Jamaica and every other West Indian colony where the sources of the island to the detriment of their own colo-Jamaica and every other west indian colony where the sources of the island to the detribute their own colors which experiment of emancipation had been tried, fresh and nies, we can draw but one inference from a course which full before him, that "free labor costing less than slave would otherwise be inexplicable. She has always conlabor, negro emancipation would promote the interests tended that the negroes imported since the treaty for the of white proprietors, a free and contented peasantry being suppression of the slave trade, in 1817, were entitled to their freedom; and over those introduced since the supple-mental treaty of 1835 she has claimed guardianship and right of interference. It is estimated that much more than a moiety of all the slaves in the island are in this category. The price of present immunity from the interference must be future emancipation.

This is probably the question in this homisphere on

This is probably the question in this homisphere on which Lord Clarendon says that the policy of France and England, however antagonistic heretofore, is now in enthere appears elsewhere no disturbing elements, it would puzzle the most ingenious head to imagine where, on this side of the Atlantic, these loving allies are to display their harmonious policy except towards us in Cuba. It is now,

fortunately, not improbable that they will find themselves sufficiently occupied nearer home.

And here it may not be inappropriate to say how much it is to be regretted that in the Russo-Turkish quarrel the attention of the country has not been more directed to the question in its aspects as affecting our own political interests. As between the rude and vigorous barbarism of the Cossack and the effete nationality of the Moslem, I find no room for active sympathy, scarcely even for an abstract preference. The gratuitous and unwarranted declarations of our Minister, Mr. Spence, in his presentation to the Porte, calls for something more decided than a reprimand. If made in the terms stated in the newspapers, with every appearance of authenticity, there is but one fitting remedy, his immediate and unqualified re-call. Should the contest, as many believe it will, (I am not of the number,) be speedily decided in favor of the Western allies of the Porte, Louis Napoleon having and continuing to wield despotic power, we may not only aban-don all hope of any early reaction in favor of liberal principles in Europe, but may look to a probable collision for

which we are by no means prepared.

It is true that we have just made one short step in the right direction; we have appropriated three millions for a half dozen steam frigates, and have had the good sense to give a large discretion as to the mode of construction to the able Secretary of the Navy, which I feel confident will produce, instead of the miserable abortions under the old system, skips not unworthy of our great naval reputation. But England has now fifty or sixty war steamers affoat, and France as many more, ready, so soon as their services may be dispensed with in the Baltic and Black Seas, to illustrate on our shores the happy accord which Lord Clarendon travelled out of the record so offensively to state existed between the two Powers in both hemispheres. We have fortunately been forewarned; it will be our own fault if we be not forearmed. This menace should at least have one salutary effect, that of upon his office on the 4th of December, and on the 8th an article appeared in the official paper, the "Diario de la Marina," in which the policy of emancipation as a necessary concession to European opinion was very plainly indicated. Justly to appreciate the value of quotations from this journal, it will be proper to show what are the relations of the press in Cuba to the Government. The "With these, as I think, conclusive evidences of the intentions of Great Britain and France—intentions which,

tentions of Great Britain and France-inter "It shall be the duty of the censor to inform the civil gov- if realized, will soon, after scenes of blood and horror from which every one not blinded by fanaticism must in stinctively recoil, convert this fair island into a second Hayti-what course have we to pursue? Shall we remain passive spectators until the fatal blow has been struck, or shall we at once put ourselves in an attitude to repel and avert it? I counsel neither negotiation nor remonstrance on this subject; we have the remedy in our own hands; it is that indicated in the resolution which I have submitted. Arm the President with the simple power to unfetter the limbs of our people, and the Government will have no occasion to put forth the energies of the nation; individual enterprise and liberality will at once furnish the men and the material that will enable the native popula-tion of Cuba to shake off the yoke of their trans-Atlantic

I desire no movement on the part of our citizens until the Cubans shall have put their own shoulders to the wheel. They have been reproached for their pusillanimity; but let it be once understood that if, by their own efforts to vindicate their rights, they show themselves worthy of our sympathies, the arm of the Federal Government will not be interposed on behalf of their oppressors. In less than six months the flag of freedom, fixed period a reciprocal servitude and a reciprocal master the lone star, would wave over the whole island—the hip, is the only possible solution of so delicate a problem."

On the 24th December last a decree was promulgated thing is certain, that, in despite of all your statutes, your collectors, your marshals, your army and navy, if the re-volutionary standard be once hoisted in Cuba, and maintained for a few short weeks, no Administration can prescribing minute regulations for the system. But some vent our citizens rushing to the rescue in such numbers at idea of their efficacy for the protection of the victims of will secure its triumph—a Democratic President would this new slave trade may be formed from the second not desire to do it. I deprecate as much as any one can

We have already had some experience of the emptiness on vessels allowed by law to carry ten times the propositioned number of passengers to which our ships are limited? With us a ship of a thousand tons, which probably
is about the average size of our Liverpool packet-ships,
can transport four hundred passengers. The Spanish
not permit a black empire under a British protectorate,
the key of the Gulf of Mexico, nominally independent,
slaver is permitted to stow or rather pack in the same but for every purpose of annoyance and aggression a British dependency to be established in sight of our own

> Cuba is studded with the safest and most capacious ports, from whence an enemy may menace if not command the immense and constantly-increasing commerce which must pass through the narrow strait that separates which must pass through the narrow strait that separates it from Florida. We have repeatedly announced to the world that we will not permit it to fall into the possession of any other European Power than Spain. This declaration has met with the hearty unanimous response of the nation, and yet its cession to either France or ingland would be less dangerous to the South than the existence of a pretended independent black Empire or Republic. I say nothing of the value of the island in a financial point say nothing of the value of the island in a mosness point of view; its inexhaustible fertility; its annual exports, now amounting to nearly thirty millions, and which would soon be doubled under a good government, where any confidence was reposed in its stability. At this time conneence was reposed in its stability. At this time agricultural property is not worth more than three or four years' purchase, estimated on the basis of present income. A plantation yielding a nett revenue of \$25,000 can be bought for less than \$100,000.
>
> I think it unnecessary to make more than a passing allusion to a matter of recent occurrence, and which has been the subject of a communication from the President

them sold to bondage in the Chincha Islands, made the theme of eloquent declamation at the Tabernacle or Fancuil Hall by the Beechers, Jays, Phillips, and other orators of the abolition school?

On the 28th December, four days after the promulgation of the decree authorizing the importation of apprentices, the "Diario" contained a long and labored article to prove that none but black laborers could be usefully outrageous, indeed, of a long series of insults and vexampleyed in agricultural industry in Cubs. On the 20th January the Captain-General addressed to the savaral the United States mail steamer Black Warrior at Havana, and confiscation of her cargo. This is but one, the most outrageous, indeed, of a long series of insults and vexations by which it has been attempted to exclude our steamers from Cuba. They serve to complete the proof I have adduced of an understanding, probably an alliance, consummated by treaty between Spain, France, and England. The Cuban authorities would never have dared to take so offensive a step if they had not relied on the sup-